MA Youth Health Survey:
Alcohol, Drug, and Cigarette Use Among School Age Children

October 2002

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Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Bureau of Substance Abuse Services
Office of Statistics and Evaluation

MA Youth Health Survey

Survey Methods

- Conducted every other year to complement YRBS
- Used a two-stage cluster sample design
- Surveyed over 3000 students in grades 6-12
- Included 50 Middle Schools and 50 High Schools
- Collected data from March 2002 to June 2002
- Participation was fully voluntary

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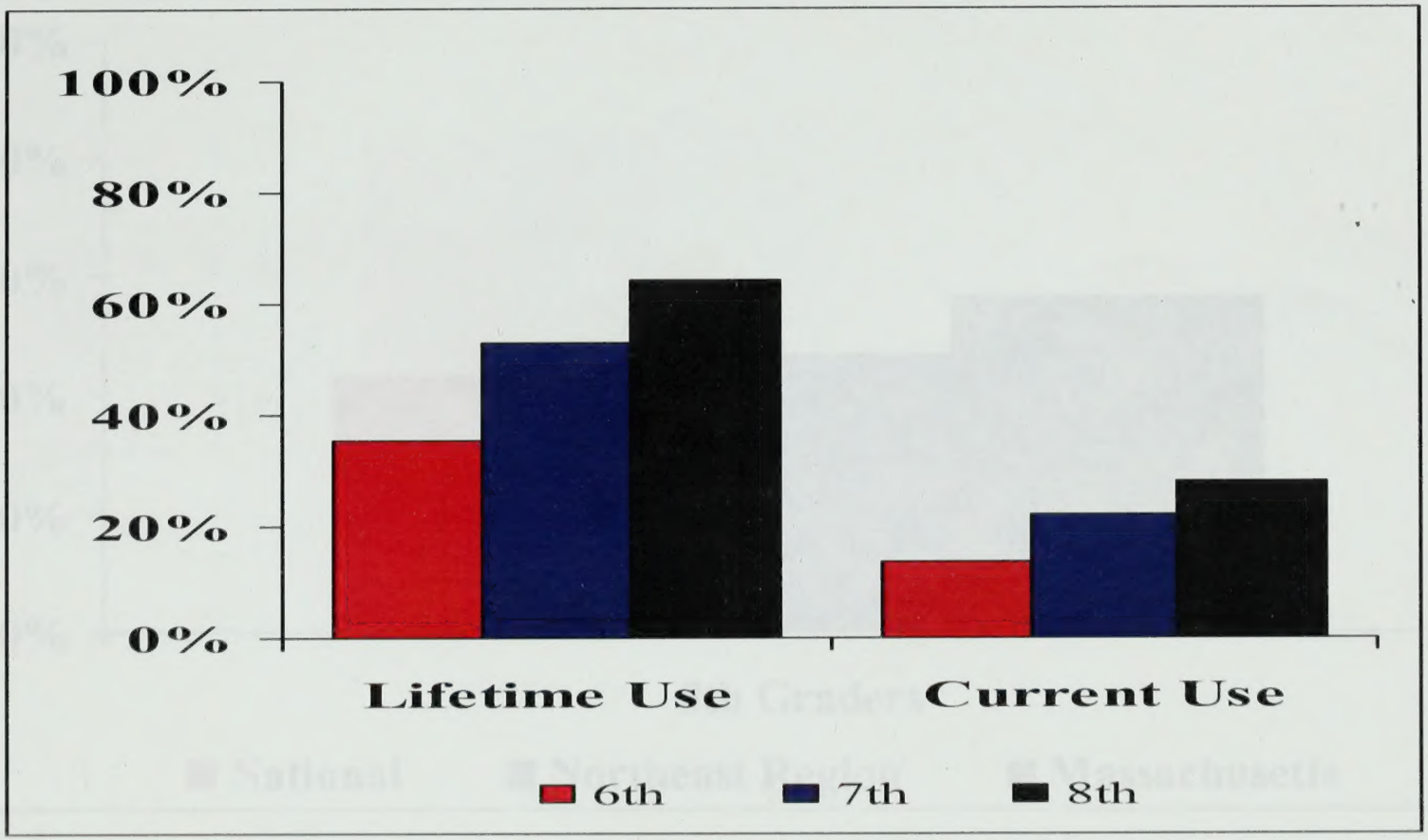
MA Youth Health Survey
Presentation Outline

- **Alcohol Use**
  - **Middle School**
  - **High School**
- Illicit Drug Use
  - **Middle School**
  - **High School**
- Cigarette Use
  - **Middle School**
  - **High School**

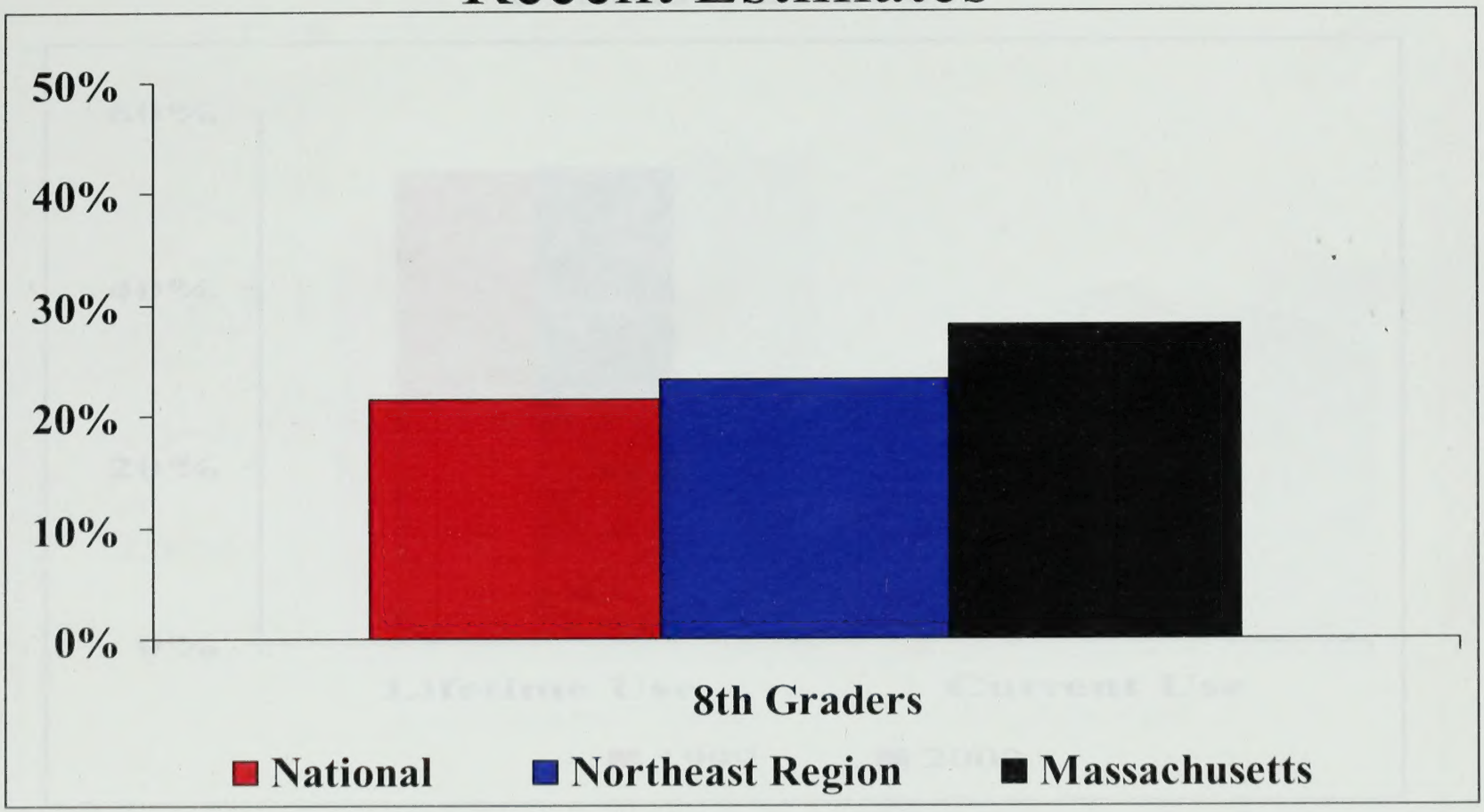
MA Youth Health Survey

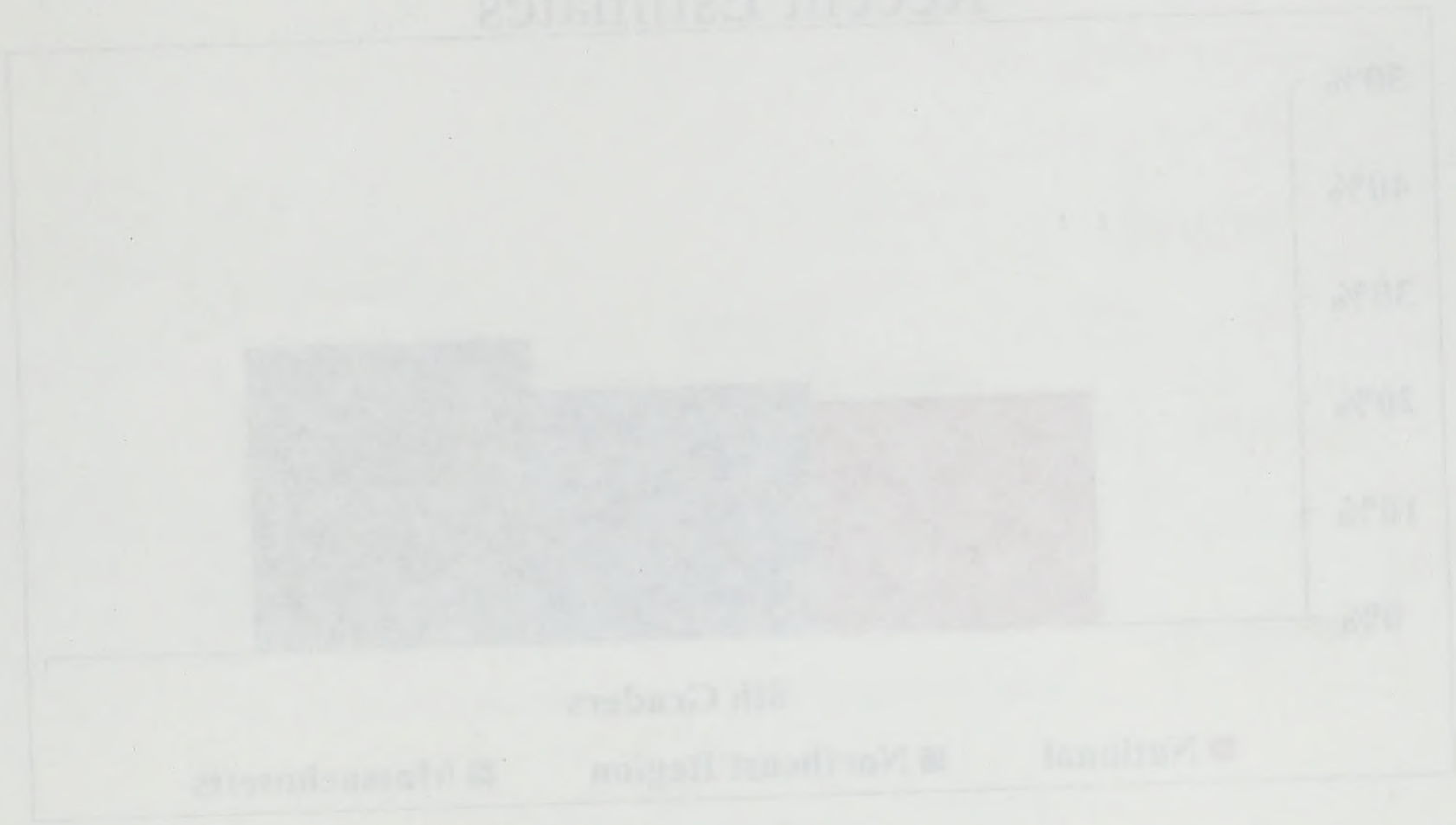
Lifetime and Current Alcohol Use: Middle School



MA Youth Health Survey

Current Alcohol Use Among 8th Graders: Recent Estimates

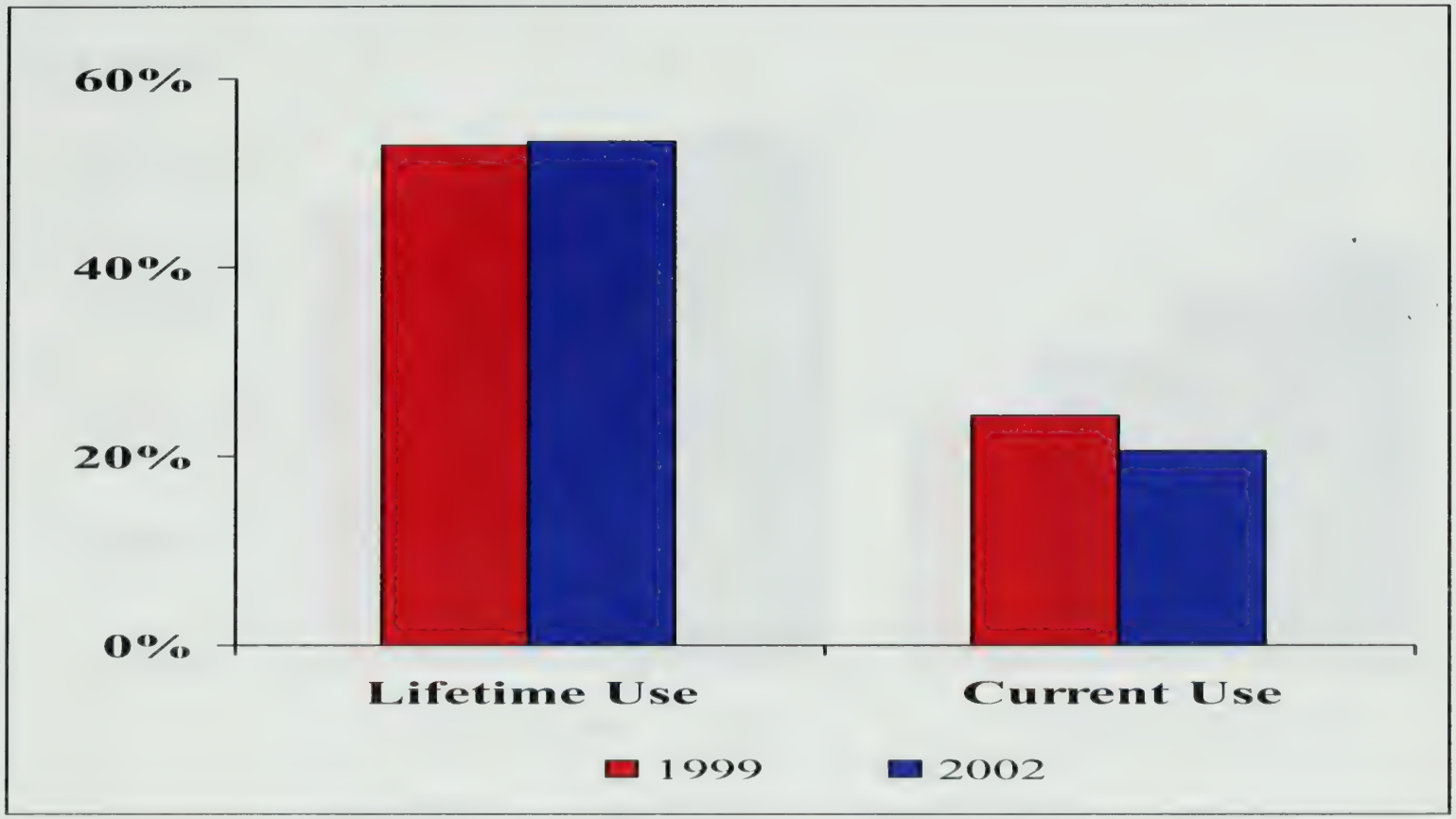




MA Youth Health Survey

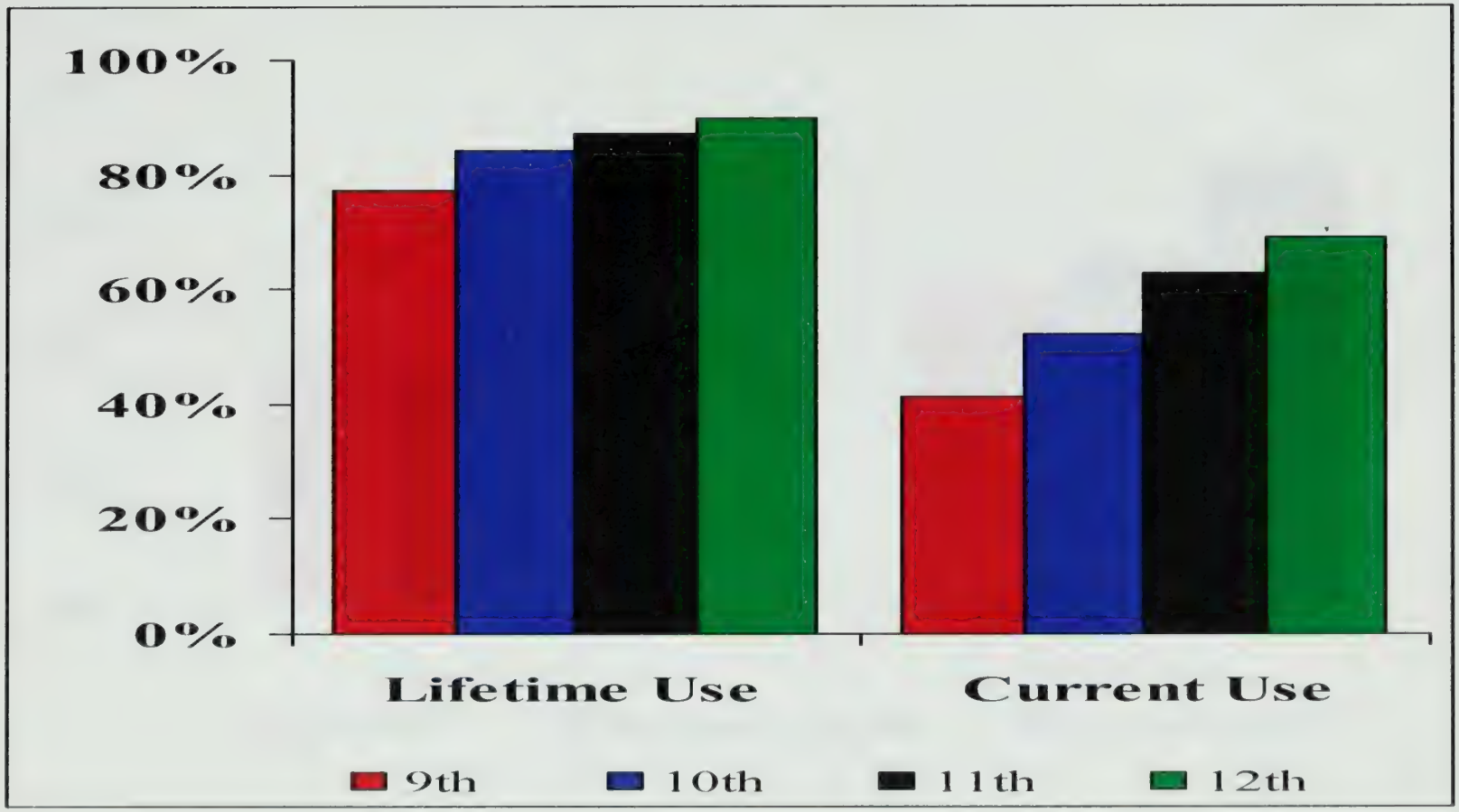
Changes in Alcohol Use: 1999 to 2002

Middle School



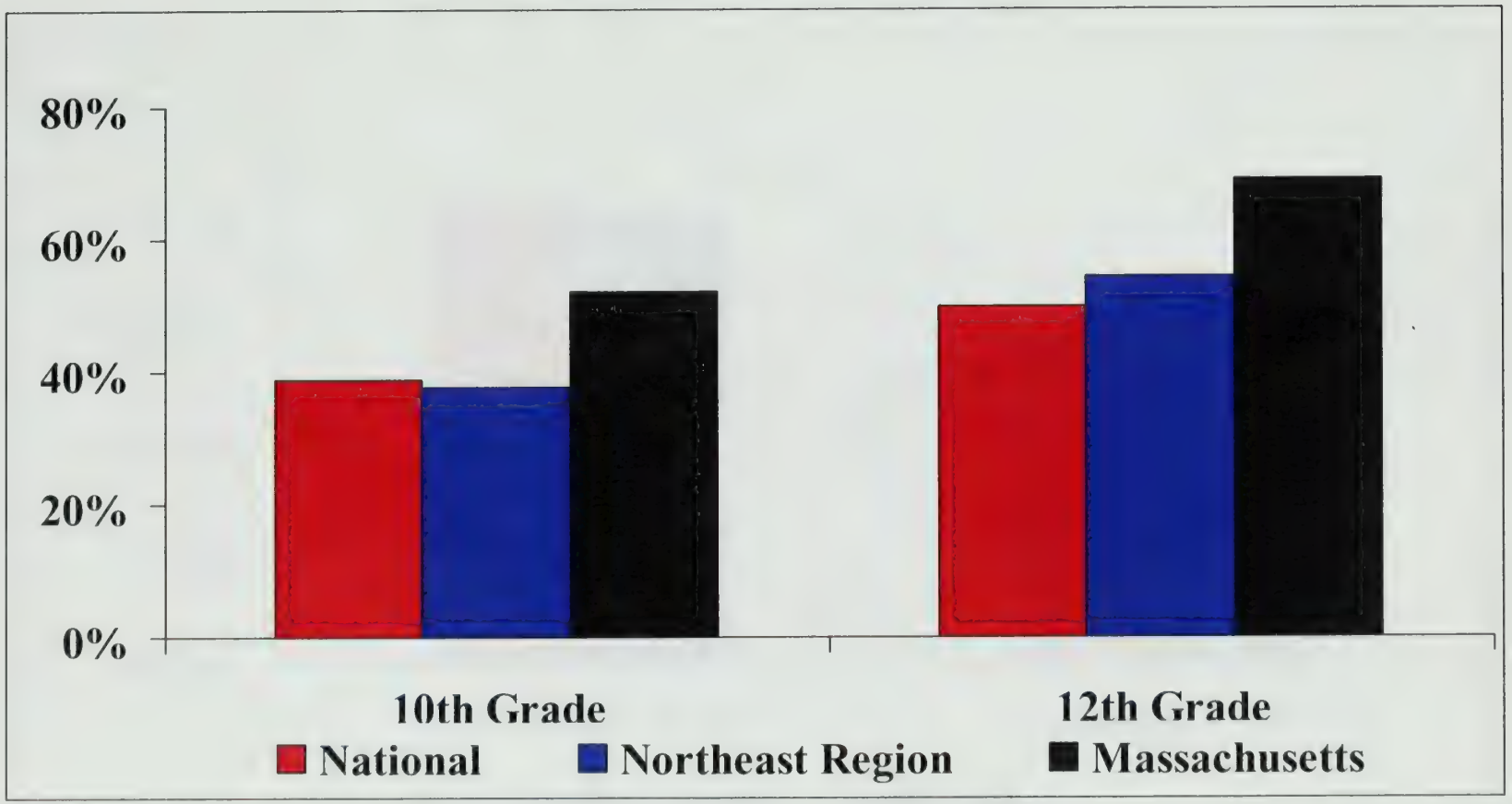
MA Youth Health Survey

Lifetime and Current Alcohol Use: High School



MA Youth Health Survey

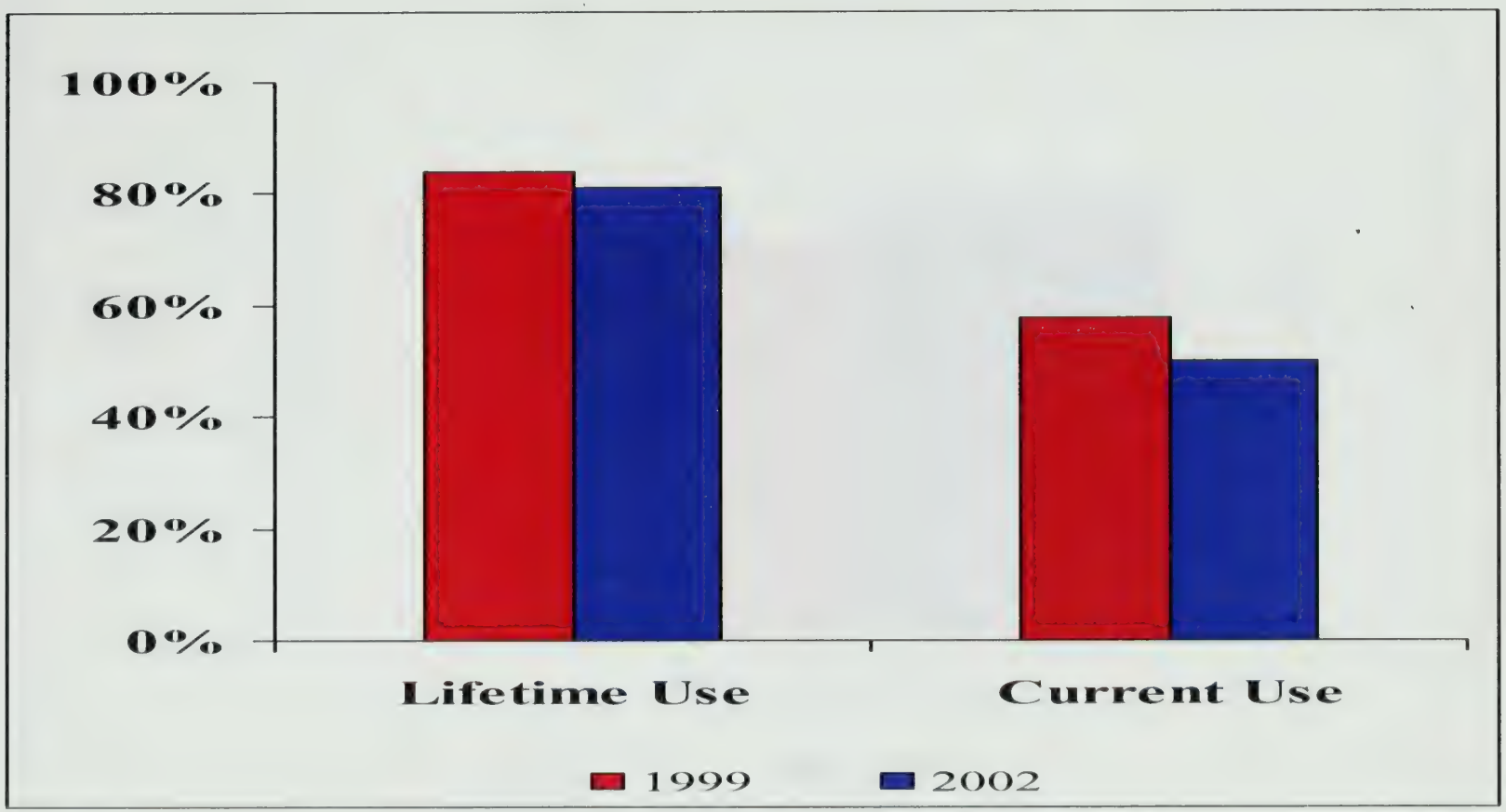
Current Alcohol Use Among 10th and 12th Graders: Recent Trends



MA Youth Health Survey

Changes in Alcohol Use: 1999 to 2002

High School



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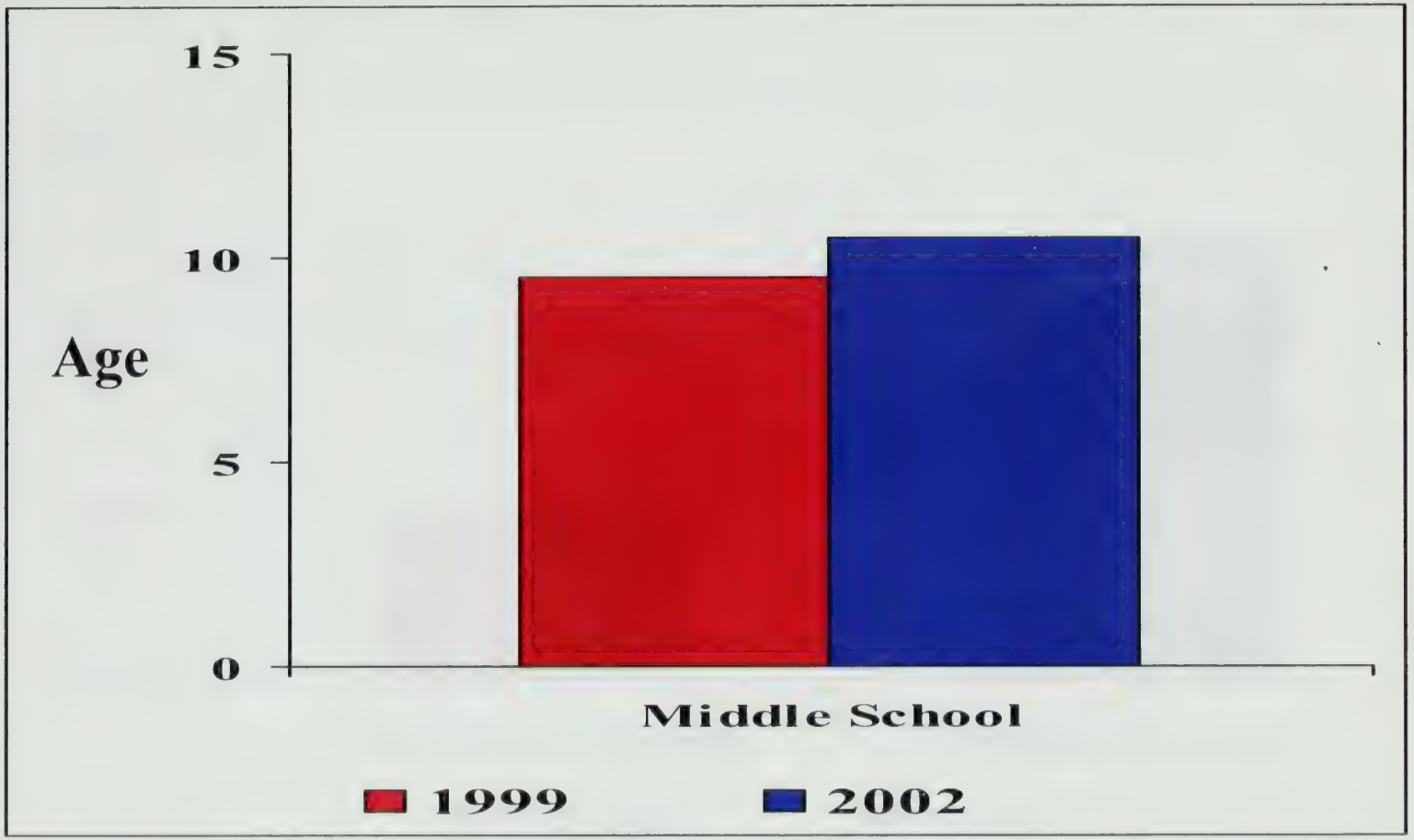
Changes in Age of First Alcohol Use: 1999 to 2002



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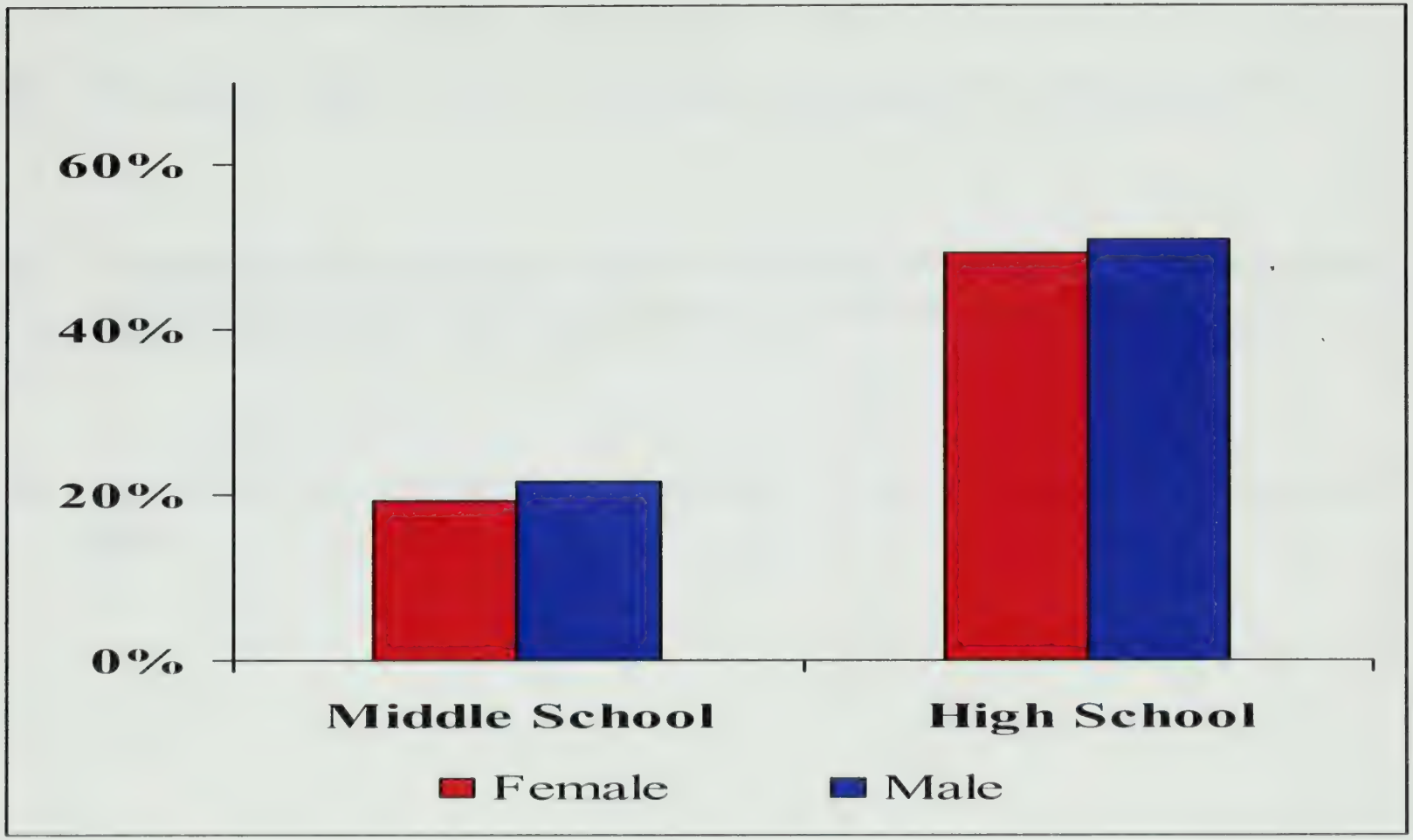
Current Alcohol Use by Gender



MA Youth Health Survey
Highlights and Summary
Alcohol Use

- The rate of reported current alcohol use increased with grade level.
- Proportion of students who reported current alcohol use has decreased among high school and middle school students since 1999.
- Age of first alcohol use among middle school students has risen since 1999.

MA Youth Health Survey

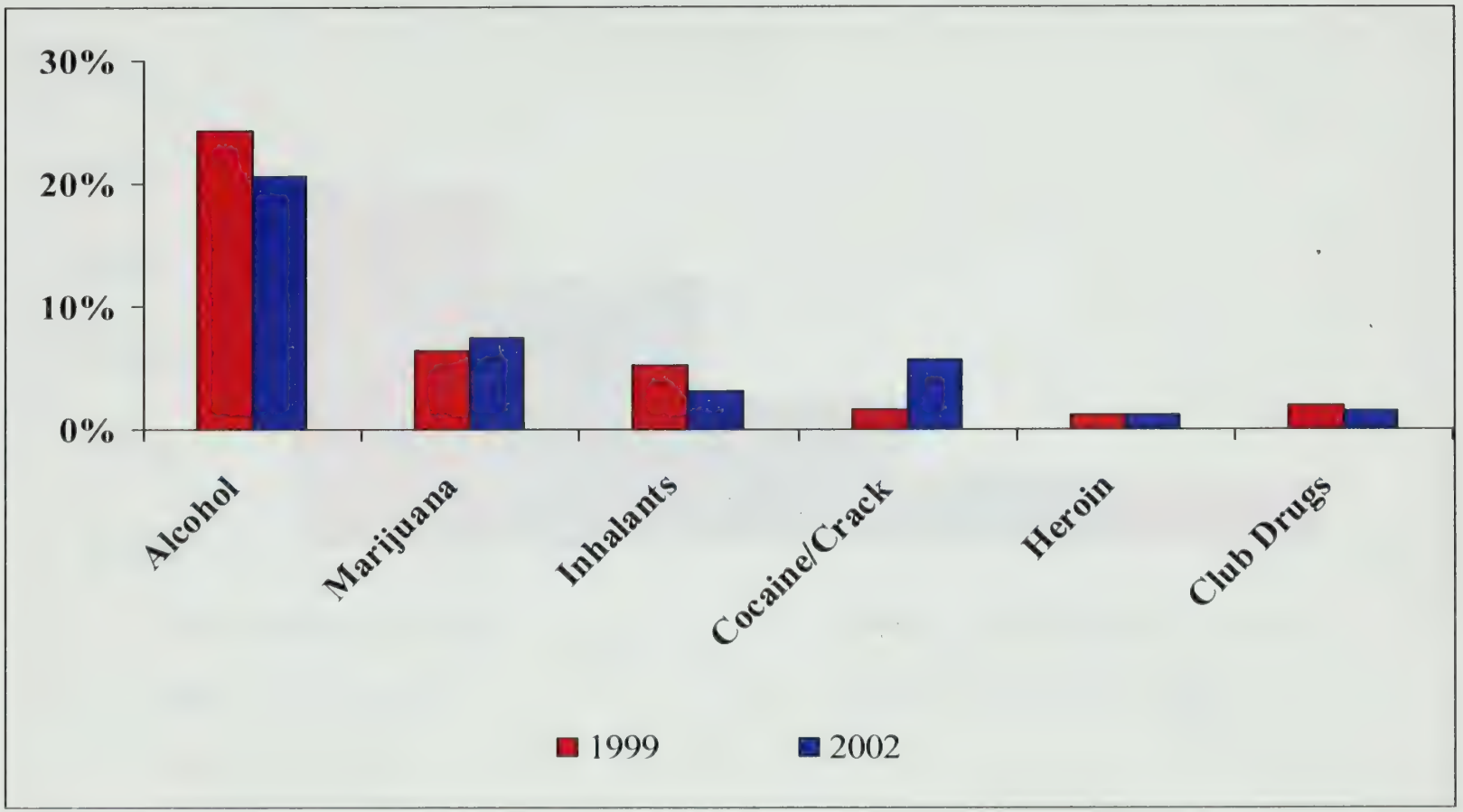
Presentation Outline

- Alcohol Use
  - Middle School
  - High School
- **Illicit Drug Use**
  - **Middle School**
  - **High School**
- Cigarette Use
  - Middle School
  - High School

MA Youth Health Survey

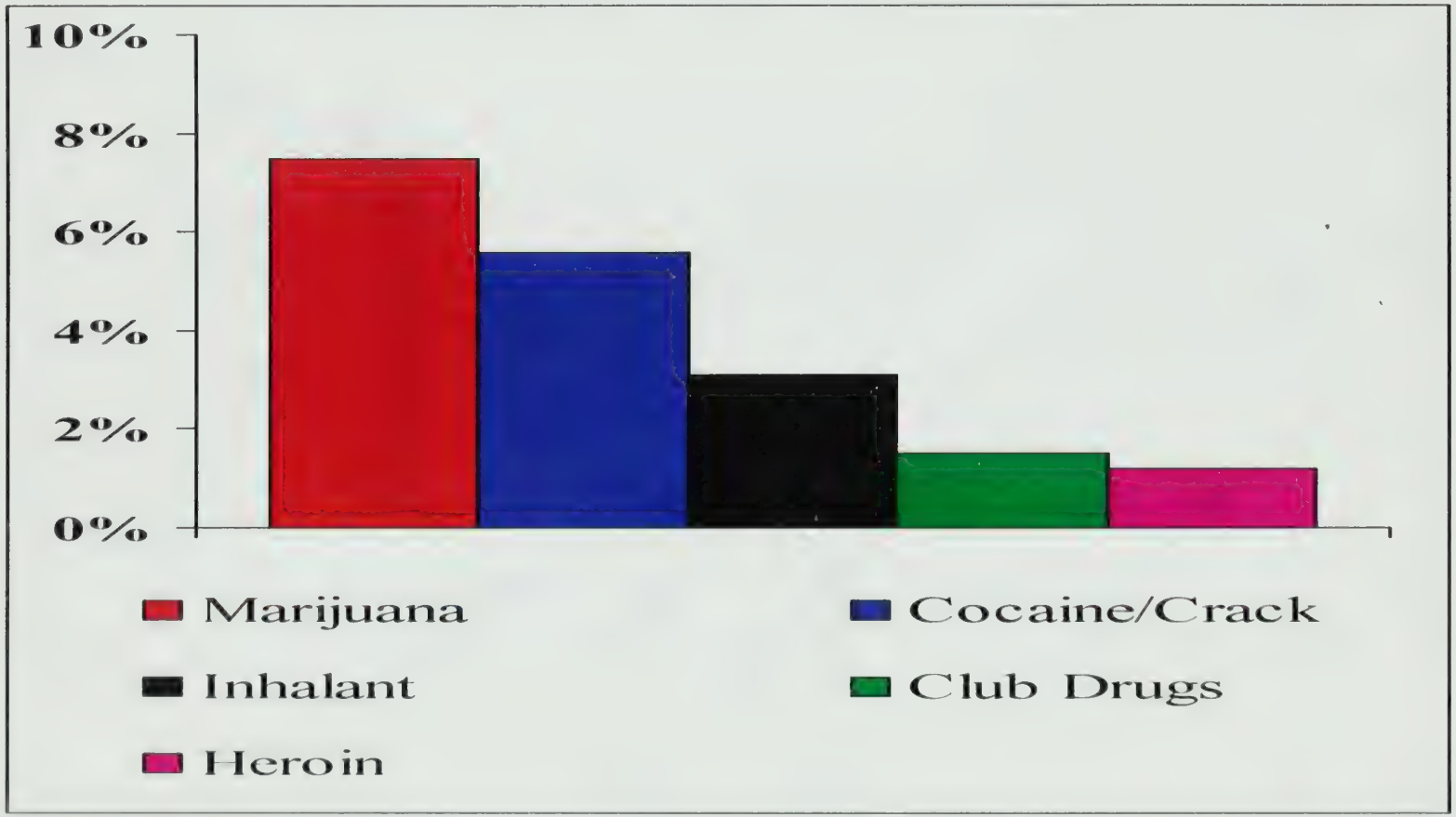
Changes in Current Illicit Drug Use: 1999 to 2002

Middle School



MA Youth Health Survey

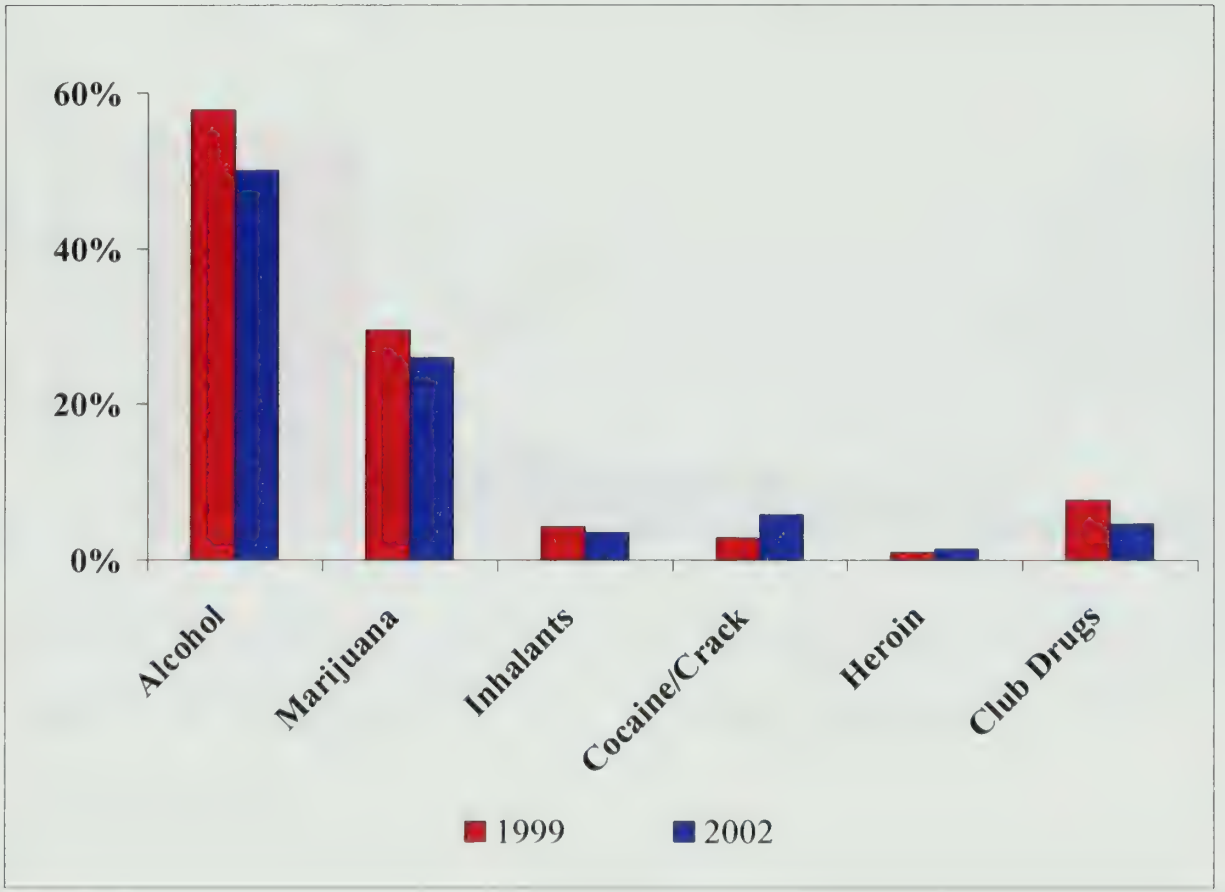
Current Illicit Drug Use: Middle School



MA Youth Health Survey

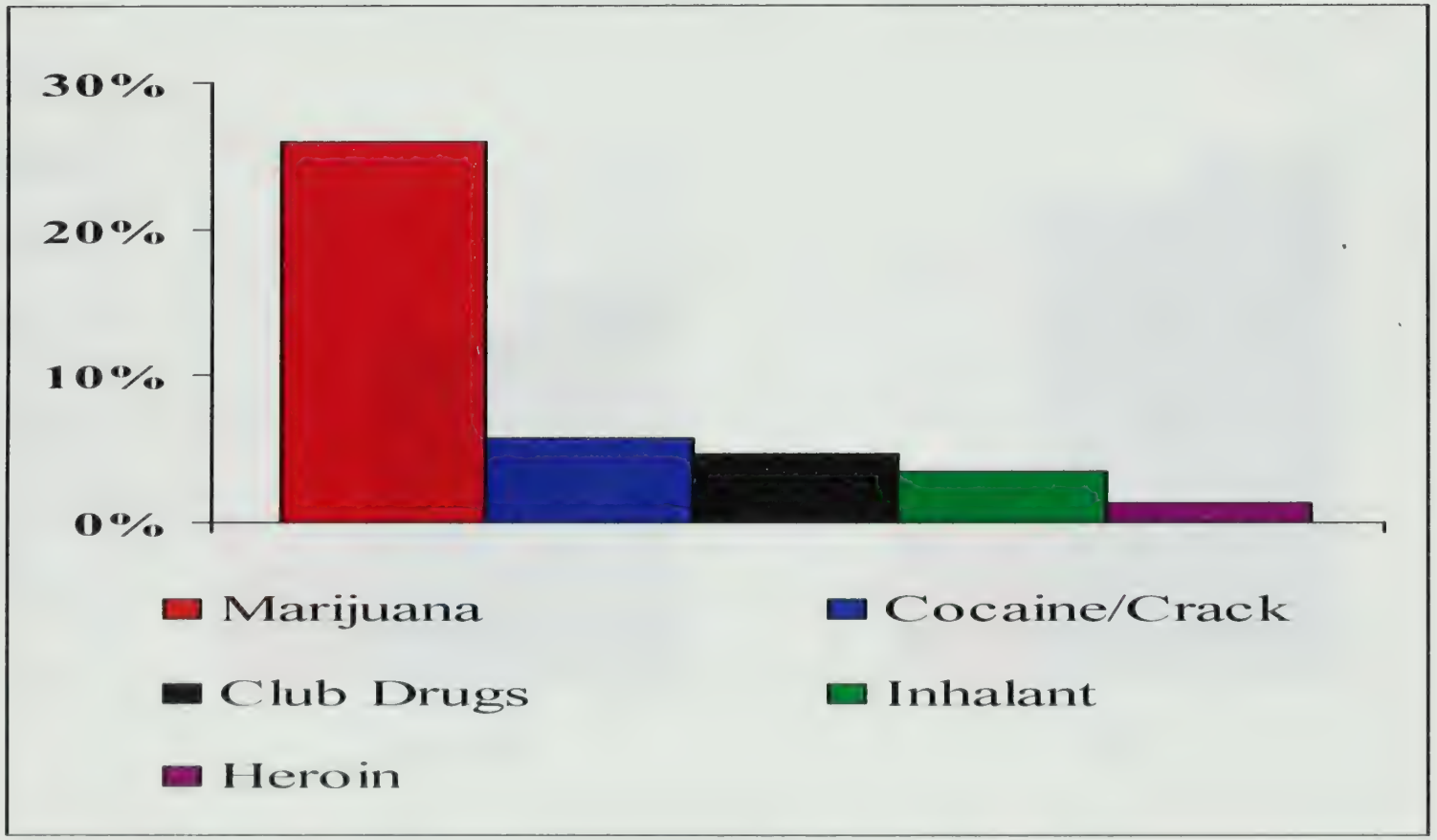
Changes in Current Illicit Drug Use: 1999 to 2002

High School



MA Youth Health Survey

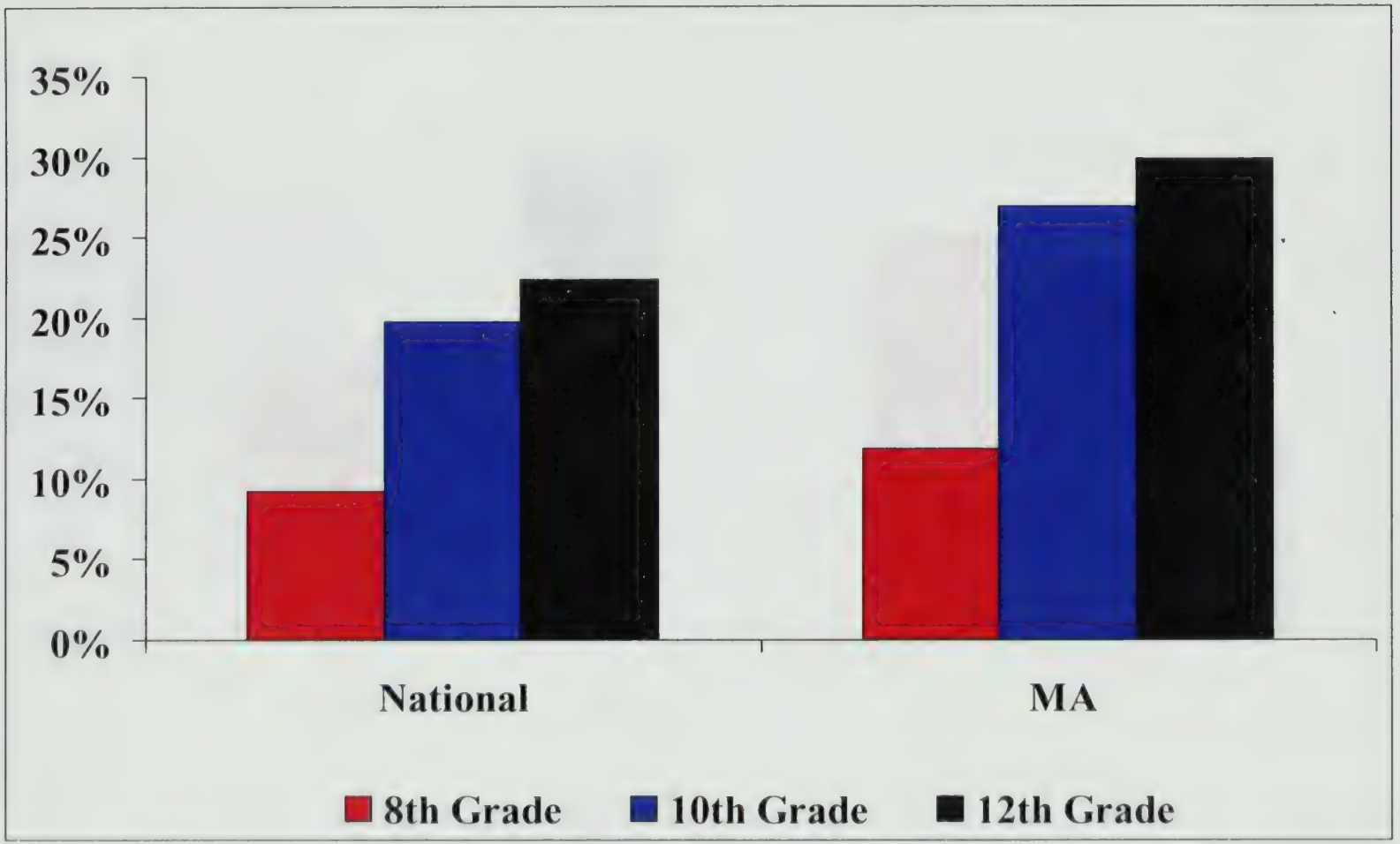
Current Illicit Drug Use: High School



MA Youth Health Survey

Current Marijuana Use: 8th, 10th, and 12th Grades

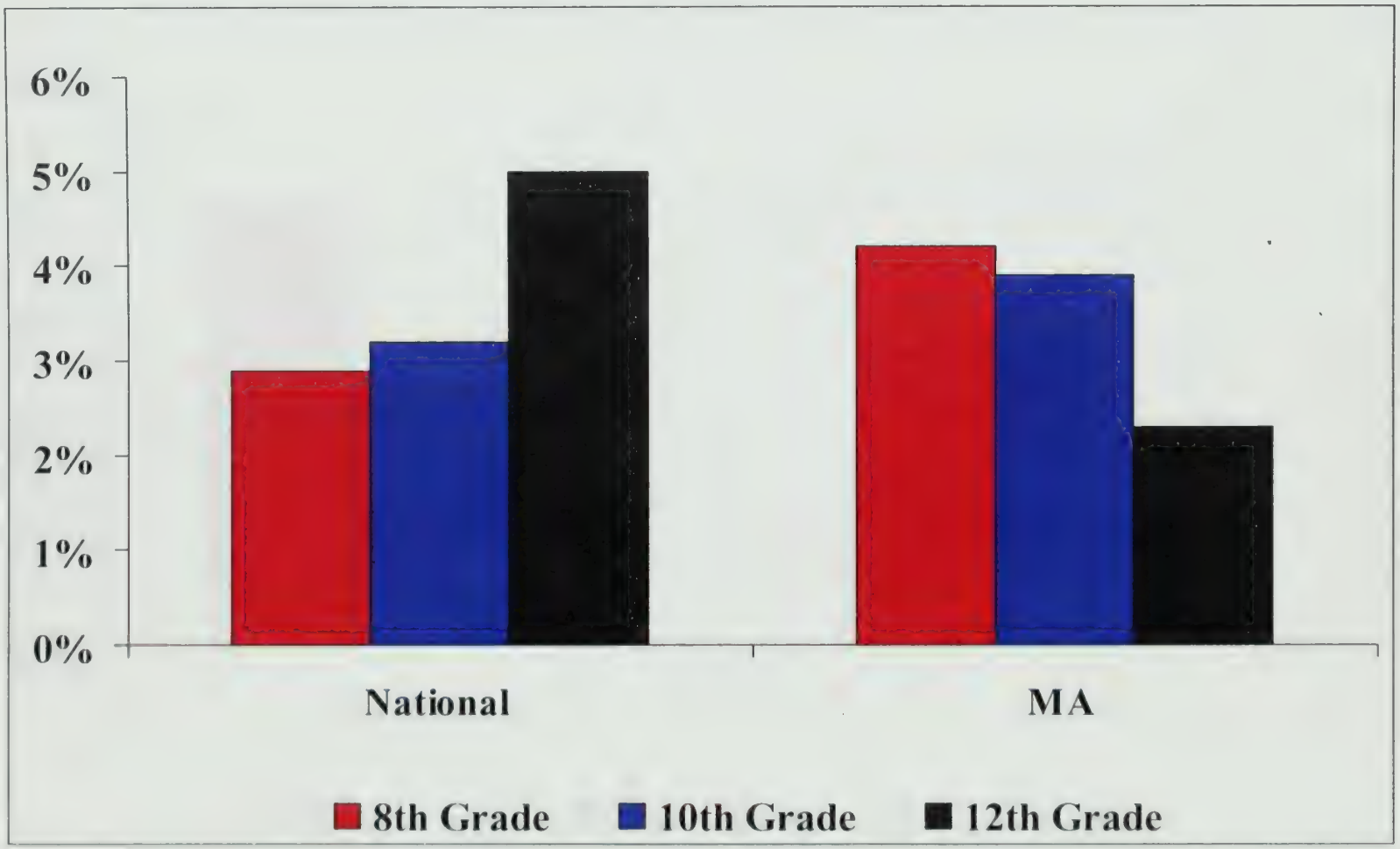
Recent Estimates



MA Youth Health Survey

Current Cocaine Use: 8th, 10th, and 12th Grades

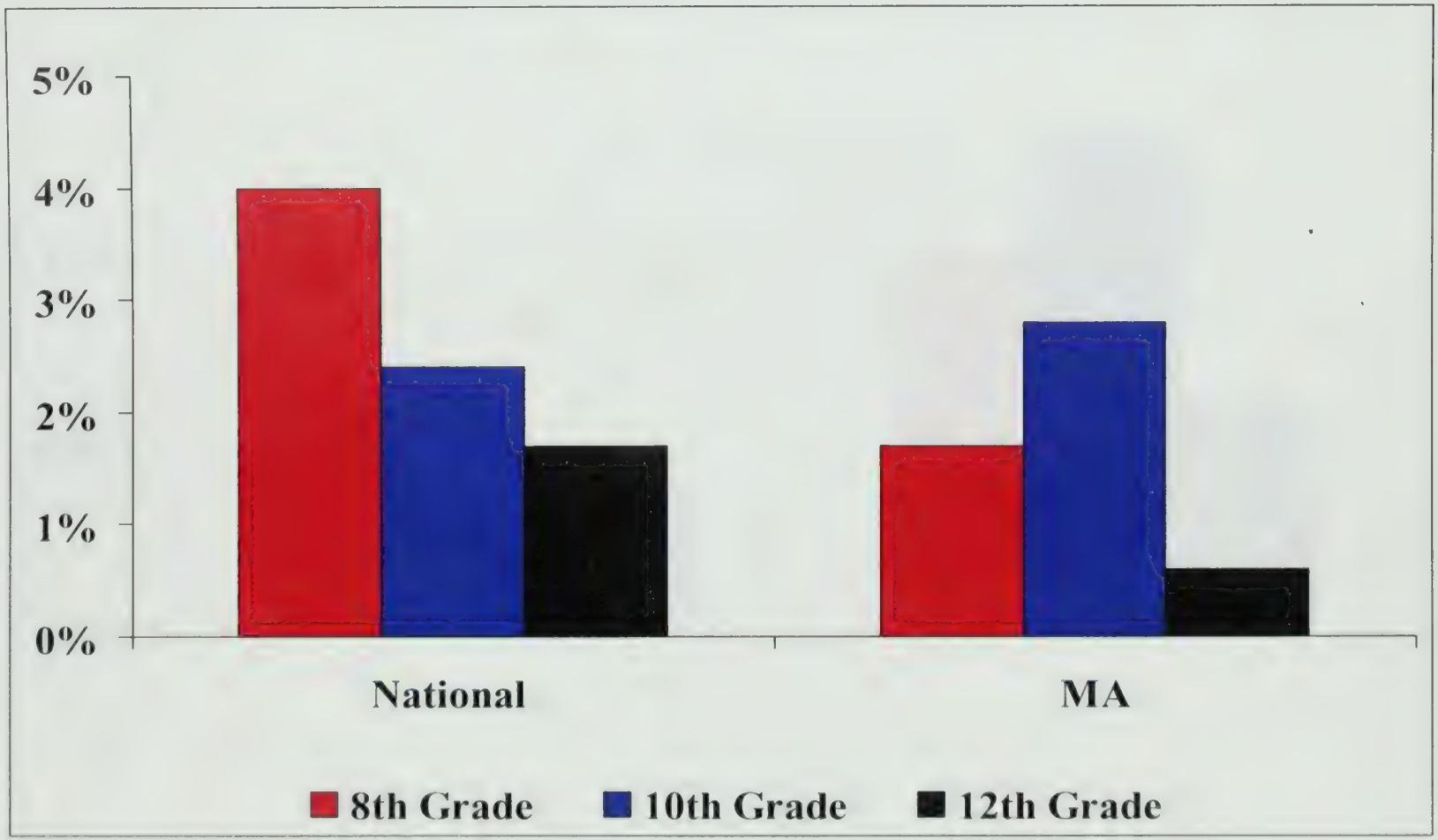
Recent Estimates



MA Youth Health Survey

Current Inhalant Use: 8th, 10th, and 12th Grades

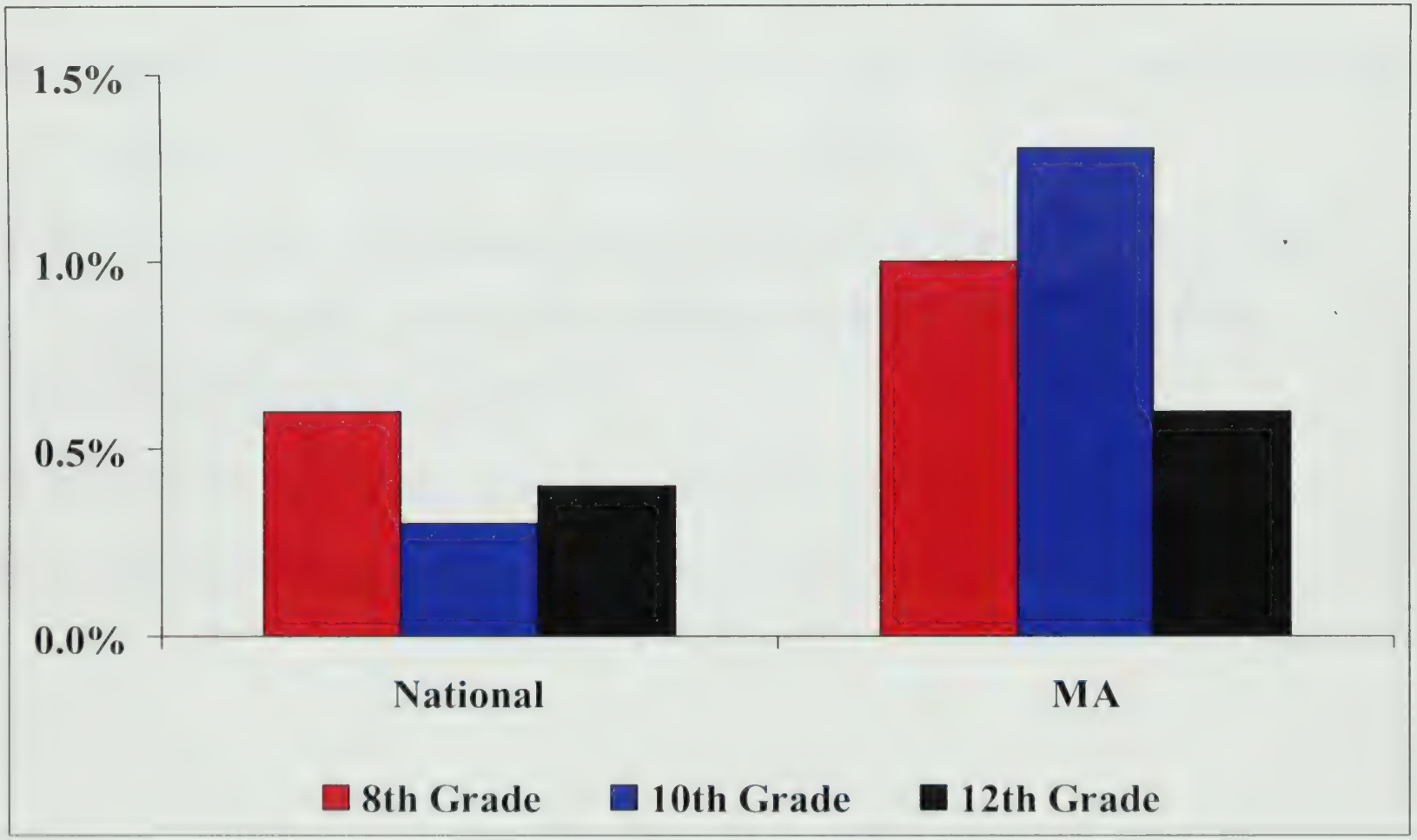
Recent Estimates



MA Youth Health Survey

Current Heroin Use: 8th, 10th, and 12th Grades

Recent Estimates



MA Youth Health Survey

Highlights and Summary
Illicit Drug Use

- Marijuana was the most common illicit drug used in the past 30 days across all grades
- Proportion of students reporting current use of all illicit drugs increases substantially from middle school to high school
- Current cocaine use increased since 1999
- Current Club Drug use decreased since 1999

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- Alcohol Use
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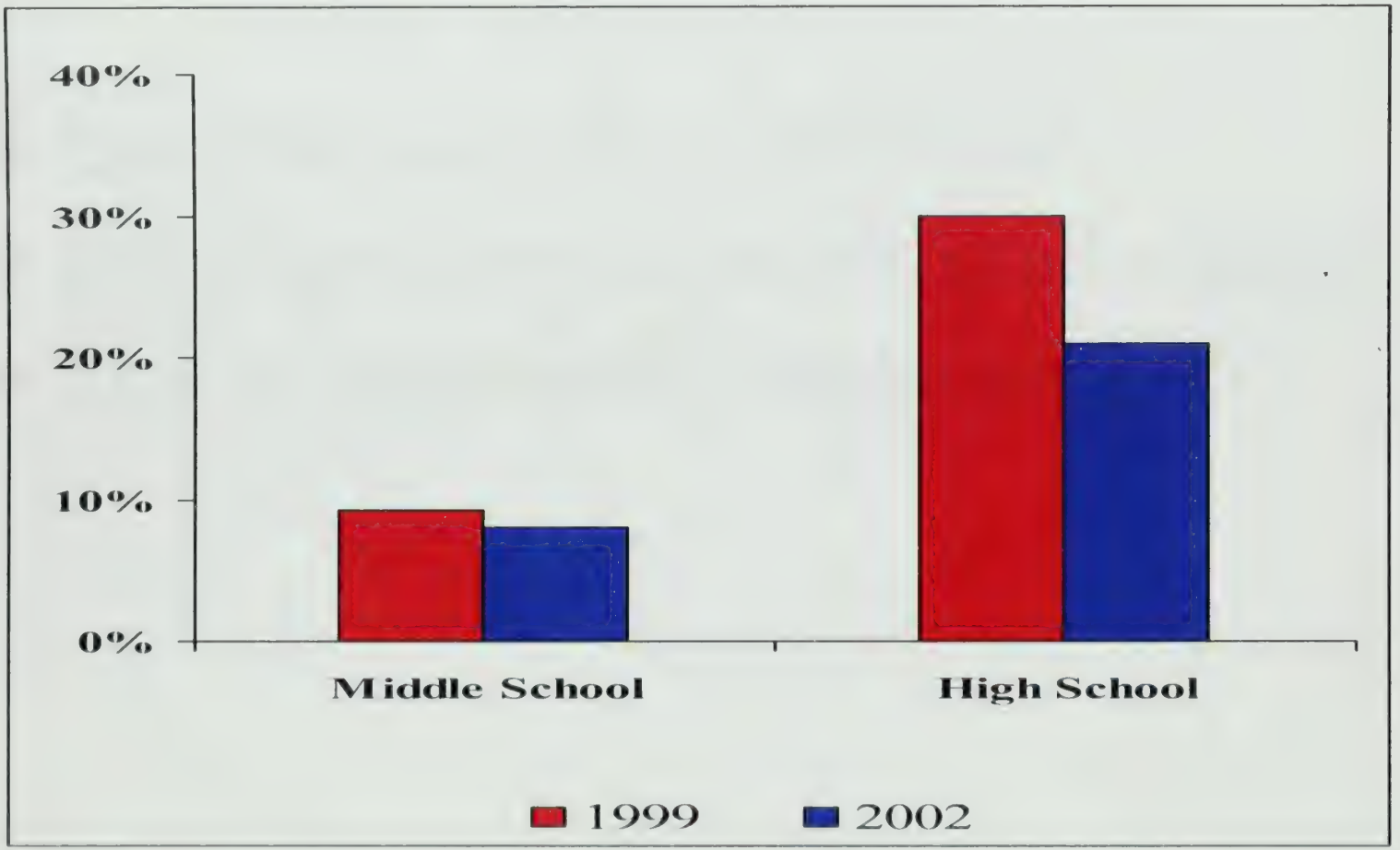
  - High School
- Illicit Drug Use
  - Middle School
  - High School
- **Cigarette Use**
  - **Middle School**
  - **High School**

MA Youth Health Survey

Changes in Current Cigarette Use: 1999 to 2002



MA Youth Health Survey
Next Steps

- Complete analysis of 2002 data
- Distribute statewide results to all schools
- Plan for 2004 survey administration

Bureau of Substance Abuse Services
Youth Prevention Initiatives

- Boston Street Outreach Programs
- Court Diversion Programs
- Student Assistance Programs
- Youth Development Programs
- Massachusetts Inhalant Abuse Task Force
- Massachusetts Emerging Drugs Task Force
- Regional Center for Healthy Communities